

Brock Farm Quarters
Near Nimmo
Princess Anne County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-400

HABS
VA
77-Nim.V
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Headquarters Office
for Virginia District

BROCK FARM QUARTERS
Near Nimmo, Princess Anne County, Virginia

VA
77. Nim. V
2

Date of erection: C. 1793

Present condition: Ruinous

Description:

This is an example of a plank house frequently seen farther west in Virginia and North Carolina but unusual, if not unique, in Princess Anne. It was partially unroofed in the storm of 1933 and, when visited in 1938, had not been repaired. The building is one-story high with a loft in the gable roof. All walls are of planks about three inches thick. These were probably sawn. At the ends they are dovetailed together. The plank walls rest on a brick foundation wall, laid in Flemish bond. There was evidently never a framed floor, the earth probably having been tamped to an even surface. It should be noted that the sill piece that rests on the brickwork is deeply worn at the door where people have stepped on or across it to the floor below.

This building seems to have been constructed without iron, as there are no nails in the sidewalls, except more recent ones at the door, and the original shingles may have been pegged on. The door in the middle of the south front was hung on wood hinges, but the exact form could not be determined as the door had been removed. The wood pintles are still in place, recessed in the jamb piece. (Another type of wood hinge is at Lansdown, near Fredericksburg, on a smoke house.) On the north wall is an original window opening. It is about 18 inches wide and 22 inches high and is merely cut through the planks, without frame or sash. The plank, cut through in the center of the window, must be fixed in place with drift pins to the planks above and below. This opening was covered by a sheathed shutter, the horizontal batten of which extended several inches beyond the jamb at either side and was received by wood hooks. No trace remains of the chimney. A nineteenth-century addition occurs at the east end, and a supplementary door-opening was cut in the south front. The west wall has disappeared.

Reference:

V. H. and S. S. Kellam, Old Houses in Princess Anne

Author: Thomas T. Waterman

Date: May 27, 1941

MASS
VA
77-Nim.v
2.

BROCK FARM QUARTERS
Near Nimmo, Princess Anne County, Virginia

Date of erection: c. 1793

Present condition: Ruinous

Description:

Plank; story and a half; gable roof; foundation wall brick, Flemish bond; end-chimney, destroyed. Modern addition at east end. Original door, south front, now altered to double door; small window opening, north wall. No sash; originally covered by solid shutter hung on brackets on inside. Walls thick; plank dovetailed at corners; joints slightly pitched to exterior. Door, now missing, was hung on wooden hinges. Interior--one room; dirt floor. (Note wear in door sill due to stepping over.)